



(No. 9.)

1937

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
HEALTH

R E P O R T

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH,
TASMANIA

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1936

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command

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TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Introduction	5
Local Health Administration	5
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	6
Venereal Diseases	8-10
Hospitals Act	10
Maternal and Child Welfare and Infantile Mortality	10-13
Places of Public Entertainment Act	13
Food and Drugs Act	13-14
Bush Nursing	14-15

APPENDICES.

I. Report of Chief Inspector of Factories	16
II. Report of Chief Health Inspector	19-20
III. Report of Government Pathologist	20
IV. Child Welfare Reports	20-21
V. Report of Government Analyst	22-23
VI. Report of Nurses' Registration Board	23
VII. Vital Statistics	23-25

TABLES.

A—B. Notifiable Infectious Diseases	7-8
C—E. Venereal Diseases	9-10
F. Private Hospitals	10
G—J. Infantile Mortality	11-13
K. Bush Nursing	14



SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1936

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 9th March, 1937.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended the 31st December, 1936.

By virtue of the fact that I did not assume the office of Director of Public Health until the 15th June, I am not in a position personally to comment upon the work performed during the whole of the year. To some extent, therefore, the contents of this report are based upon the records of this Department prior to my appointment.

Administration of Mental Hospital, &c.:

The Mental Hospital (including the Psychopathic Home at Millbrook Rise), the New Town Rest Home, and the Home for Invalids (Launceston) were constituted branches of the Public Health Department from the 1st July.

Applications have been invited for the position of medical superintendent of the New Town Rest Home, following the decision of the Government to place a medical officer in charge of the institution. The duties of the office include the administration of the Home, lecturing to the staff of the Institution and to members of the Police Force, examining entrants to the Public Service, Railways, and Police Department, and medical services at the Tasmanian Sanatorium.

Pathological Laboratory:

A pathological laboratory was established as a branch of the Department as from the 1st July, Dr. C. A. Duncan being appointed to the position of Government Pathologist.

Federal Health Council:

Meetings of the Federal Health Council were held at Canberra in April and at Perth in September. Resolutions were adopted at these sessions under the following headings, as the result of the deliberations of members of the Council:—

Session held at Canberra—

- Maternal mortality.
- Coronial inquiry into maternal deaths.
- Prevention and treatment of crippling conditions.
- Alleged cures for serious diseases invented by unqualified persons.
- Leprosy.
- Subsidy for public health purposes and review of constitution and functions of the Federal Health Council.

Legal and administrative control of the preparation and sale of biological preparations.

Control of diphtheria.

Control of remedies.

Control in sale of contraceptives.

Sausage casings.

Defective conditions associated with imported foods.

Travelling scholarships.

Session held at Perth—

Prevention of spread of psittacosis.

Conditions affecting the deaf, dumb, and blind.

Manufacture of catgut in Australia.

Control of swimming pools.

Consultative cancer clinics.

Maternal deaths.

Cremation:

A crematory was opened at Hobart during the month of May. A site has also been approved for the erection of a similar building at Launceston.

LOCAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

Pressure of work in many directions since my appointment has prevented my making a complete survey of municipal districts for the purpose of obtaining first-hand information with respect to the administration of the Public Health Act and kindred laws by local authorities.

A conference and class of instruction for health inspectors, organised by the Department and held during October, afforded me an opportunity of meeting the majority of district health inspectors. The keenness and enthusiasm evinced by these officials in the proceedings of the conference enable me to arrive at the conclusion that they are an important link in the chain of local health administration.

It is appropriate to mention under this heading that the Minister for Health was asked by the delegates in attendance at this conference to provide for the inclusion of a clause in the Public Health Act giving security of tenure of office to health inspectors by making these officers subject to dismissal only with the approval of the Director of Public Health. The need for some protection of this nature cannot be emphasised too strongly, as the work required of a local health inspector may often bring him into conflict with local influences, which may interfere with his means of livelihood.

It is noted with much satisfaction that an increasing number of local health inspectors are qualifying for the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which is regarded as a test of sanitary knowledge. It will continue to be the objective of the Department to stimulate interest in the subject of hygiene amongst all workers in this field of service, so that ultimately none other than qualified officers will be employed by local bodies.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Tables A and B, appended, contain statistical data under this heading.

Diphtheria.—During 1936, 573 cases of diphtheria were reported, a case rate of 2·49 per 1000 of the population. Of these cases, 20 proved fatal, making a fatality rate of 34·8 per 1000 cases and a mortality rate of ·9 per 10,000 of the population.

Unfortunately, immunisation as a means of prevention was practised in only a few municipal districts. Until such time as the extensive protection of children against diphtheria becomes an accomplished fact, no material reduction in the incidence of this community disease can be expected. It is hoped by further educational propaganda and other means to stimulate the interest of parents in this method of prevention.

No. 15 of the regulations in force for checking or preventing the spread of any infectious disease was amended on the 3rd September, 1936. By virtue of this amendment, persons suffering from diphtheria are now required to remain in isolation until three consecutive examinations of swabs fail to show the presence of diphtheria bacilli. Only two such examinations were necessary hitherto.

Scarlet Fever.—Notifications under this heading totalled 478, compared with 302 during 1935. There were only six deaths. The disease was prevalent in epidemic form in the districts of Burnie and Table Cape during the months of March and April. Fortunately, the cases were of a very mild type.

Typhoid Fever.—Only eight cases were notified. There was one death.

Tuberculosis (All Forms).—One hundred and sixty-seven cases (including six non-pulmonary) were reported. The deaths from the disease numbered 135, giving a death rate of 58 per 100,000 persons living. Of the 161 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 49 per cent. received institutional treatment.

The admissions to the Tasmanian Sanatorium totalled 107 (45 males and 62 females). Statistical information with respect to these cases and

to those which were in residence at the beginning of the year is set out hereunder:—

Bed Accommodation.

Bed accommodation for 81 patients (43 male and 38 female).

Patients Treated.

	Male.	Female.
Remaining in on 1.1.36	15	24
Admitted during year	45	62
	—	—
	60	86
	—	—
Discharged—	Male.	Female.
Much improved ..	—	1
Improved	25	33
Stationary	1	8
Worse....	3	1
	—	—
	29	43
Died	6	16
Remaining in on 31.12.36	25	27
	—	—
	60	86
	—	—

Much needed extensions have been carried out at the Sanatorium, thus relieving the acute position which existed in providing for the institutional treatment of persons suffering from the disease.

Provision to the extent of £400 was made in the Estimates of the Department for the year 1936-37 for the establishment of a Chest Clinic at the Hobart Public Hospital. Initial steps have been taken to establish this clinic, to which a visiting nurse will be attached. It is intended that this clinic shall embrace all activities of a modern tuberculosis dispensary or bureau.

Puerperal Fever.—Thirty cases were notified. The wards in the public or private lying-in hospitals in which the cases occurred were closed for a prescribed period, and fumigated before re-use. Nurses in attendance upon the patients were also suspended from further practice.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—There was a total absence of this disease during the year.

During the month of September, two nurses were appointed to proceed to Brisbane, for the purpose of undergoing a course of training in Sister Kenny's method of treatment of paralysis. In accordance with the terms of their contract, these nurses, at the termination of their training, will be attached to the staff of a public hospital for a period of two years, so that their services may be utilised at the clinic proposed to be established for the treatment of cases of infantile paralysis.

TABLE A.

Return showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease Reported to the Department of Public Health during the Year 1936, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1935 and 1936.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tubercu- losis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro- Spinal Meningitis.	Total, 1936.	Total, 1935.
1 Beaconsfield	13	..	1	5	...	..	19	10
2 Bothwell	1	..	1	1	...	..	3	3
3 Brighton	4	..	4	2	1	..	11	1
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 Burnie	9	...	53	1	...	...	63	28
6 Campbell Town .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	1
7 Circular Head	1	...	19	...	...	...	20	9
8 Clarence	8	...	6	2	...	1	17	12
9 Deloraine	13	...	3	4	2	...	22	6
10 Devonport	8	2	27	3	...	...	40	25
11 Esperance	10	...	2	1	...	...	13	55
12 Evandale .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
13 Fingal .....	...	...	...	4	...	...	4	17
14 Flinders .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
15 George Town	3	...	3	1	...	...	7	6
16 Glamorgan .....	...	...	4	1	...	...	5	...
17 Glenorchy	57	...	23	10	...	1	91	121
18 Gormanston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
19 Green Ponds	7	...	1	...	...	...	8	5
20 Hamilton	8	...	2	...	...	...	10	13
21 Hobart	258	1	182	52	9	...	452	305
22 Huon	17	...	1	5	1	...	24	13
23 Kentish	7	2	4	3	2	...	18	15
24 Kingborough	11	1	4	1	...	...	17	34
25 King Island .....	...	...	11	...	...	...	11	5
26 Latrobe	1	...	7	2	...	1	11	16
27 Launceston	50	...	23	26	12	1	112	116
28 Leven	7	...	16	2	...	...	25	27
29 Lilydale .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	11
30 Longford	1	...	3	4	1	...	9	22
31 New Norfolk	24	...	7	7	...	...	38	34
32 Oatlands	10	...	6	3	...	...	19	8
33 Penguin .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	5	2
34 Port Cygnet	4	1	2	...	...	...	7	9
35 Portland	4	...	3	1	...	...	8	...
36 Queenstown	2	...	1	5	1	...	9	16
37 Richmond	2	1	4	1	...	...	8	2
38 Ringarooma	1	...	1	2	...	...	4	9
39 Ross .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	4
40 Scottsdale	3	...	4	1	1	...	9	13
41 Sorell	10	...	3	...	...	...	13	2
42 Spring Bay .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	1
43 St. Leonards	5	...	5	1	...	...	11	10
44 Strahan .....	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
45 Table Cape	5	...	61	2	...	...	68	10
46 Tasman	1	...	2	3	...	...	6	2
47 Waratah	2	...	...	2	...	...	4	8
48 Westbury	4	...	6	2	...	...	12	10
49 Zeehan	1	...	3	1	...	...	5	...
50 Overseas	1	...	1	4	...	...	6	9
TOTAL CASES.....	573	8	478	167	30	4	1260	1032

TABLE B.

RETURN showing Notification of Each Type of Infectious Diseases Received by the Department of Public Health for Each Month of the Year 1936, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1935 and 1936.

Month.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (All Forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro- spinal Meningitis.	Total, 1936.	Total, 1935.
January	37	1	12	17	1	1	69	112
February	33	5	26	17	..	1	82	62
March	38	..	108	18	..	..	164	69
April	63	1	54	12	2	..	132	78
May.....	40	..	38	12	3	..	93	76
June	46	..	34	17	1	..	98	64
July	86	..	38	11	4	1	140	120
August	53	..	33	12	4	..	102	123
September	64	..	27	17	1	..	109	76
October	41	..	42	8	7	..	98	103
November	40	..	31	17	1	1	90	71
December	32	1	35	9	6	..	83	78
Total	573	8	478	167	30	4	1260	1032

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The cases notified totalled 370, comprising 277 males and 93 females. Approximately 48 per cent. of the cases were reported from the public hospitals of Hobart and Launceston, where clinics are established for treatment.

In view of the preponderance of notifications of the disease in males over females, the conclusion can only be arrived at that in many instances members of the latter sex who are suffering from the disease are not under treatment. The incidence of the disease is likely to remain unchanged until the proportion of infected women applying for treatment increases very materially.

Three persons suffering from the disease furnished statutory declarations as to source of infection,

which enabled the Department to serve orders for treatment. These orders were complied with.

Medical practitioners notified the names of fourteen patients who discontinued treatment before cured of or free from the disease. These persons were traced, with the aid of the Police Department, through which channel orders requiring continuation of treatment were served. It cannot be doubted that failure to continue treatment is another serious obstacle to the reduction of the incidence of infection. The co-operation of medical practitioners is most essential to combat it.

Statistical information with respect to the notifications received during the year is appended (Tables C to E).

TABLE D.

RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Public Health Department for the Year 1936.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhœa	60	158	24	38	84	196	280
Syphilis	27	23	16	13	42	36	79
Gleet .....	...	2	...	...	...	2	2
Chancre	1	3	...	...	1	3	4
Gonorrhœa and Syphilis	1	...	...	1	1	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	...	2	...	1	...	3	3
Gonorrhœa and Ophthalmia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	89	188	40	53	129	241	370

TABLE E.
RETURN showing Number of Cases of Venereal Disease reported to Department of Public Health during Each Year since the Inception of the Act in 1918.

Year.	No. of Cases	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
		366	488	419	473	357	384	516	460	413	376	390	386	324	242	229	274	358	336	370

HOSPITALS ACT.

The Hospitals Act, 1918, as amended during the year, provides that the Hobart Public Hospitals District shall be under the management and control of a Board, consisting of the Director of Public Health, who shall be Chairman, and four other members appointed by the Governor, of whom one shall be nominated by the registered medical practitioners residing and practising in the public hospitals district, and another a member of a registered friendly society nominated by members of the Friendly Societies' Association.

Public Hospitals.—Excellent progress has been made with the construction of the new public hospital at Hobart. A further sum of £73,100 has been made available by the Government to provide for various essential services not included in the original contract.

The erection of a new public hospital at Launceston was also commenced during the year.

The construction of a modern maternity hospital at Launceston by the Committee of the Queen Victoria Hospital is an admirable undertaking. The new institution will replace the old hospital, which has outlived its usefulness, and falls far short of present day requirements. The site of the new institution is ideal for the purpose for which it is being used.

Financial aid provided by the Government towards the cost of structural alterations and additions will also be the means of placing various other public hospitals throughout the State on a more satisfactory footing.

Private Hospitals.—Apart from the lack of nursing equipment at lying-in hospitals, the general standard of these establishments, as revealed by routine inspections carried out by officers of the Department, is quite satisfactory. The resident managers of lying-in hospitals were notified of the minimum requirements considered necessary in regard to nursing equipment, and requested to equip their hospitals in accordance therewith.

Particulars regarding licences issued under this heading during the year are appended. (Table F.)

TABLE F.

RETURN of Private Hospital Licences Issued during the Year 1936.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	10	1	2	7
Launceston	12	1	3	8
Country	46	13	1	32
	68	15	6	47

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Baby clinics established at various centres of population, and infant welfare work undertaken by bush nurses, continue to play an important part in measures for the regular supervision of the young child and education of the mother in mothercraft and principles of healthy living. It is fitting that some tribute should be given to those voluntary workers whose pioneer efforts have led the way to the wide public interest in the organised services of the present day on behalf of mothers and young children.

The incidence of Pyrexia after child-birth in a number of patients accommodated at a public maternity hospital formed the subject of investigation by the Department. This revealed that there was no evidence of sepsis of any nature among the general or nursing staffs. Moreover, the equipment was adequate, modern, and well up to the standard, whilst every precaution appeared to have been exercised to prevent sepsis and spread of infection once it had occurred.

As the result of the commemoration of the jubilee of the late King George V. and Queen Mary by means of a fund to be devoted to the reduction of maternal and infantile mortality, various institutions and organisations benefited to the extent of £11,165 18s. 6d., representing the amount contributed in Tasmania from the following sources:—

	£	s.	d.
Total State collections (various sources)	665	18	6
Commonwealth contribution	5500	0	0
State appropriation, 1935-36	5000	0	0

Cabinet, on the recommendation of the committee appointed for the purpose, approved of the following allocations:—

	£	s.	d.
Provision of model maternity hospital, as outlined by Federal Government, at the new Public Hospital, Hobart	7000	0	0

	£	s.	d.
Bush Nursing	1000	0	0
St. Mary's District Hospital (new maternity block)	1000	0	0
Child Welfare Association, Hobart	850	0	0
Queen Alexandra Hospital, Hobart	500	0	0
Public maternity hospitals, equipment for (including Zeehan District Hospital, £137)	665	18	6
Child Welfare Association, Devonport	150	0	0

Infantile Mortality.—During the year there were 227 deaths of children under one year, giving an infantile mortality rate (deaths per thousand births) of 49·6, compared with 231 deaths and a rate of 51·8 for the previous year. Our figures, unfortunately, are much higher than those of any other State of the Commonwealth, although influences adverse to infant life are no less favourable in Tasmania than in those States. For years past, there have been available well-organised child-welfare services, and treatment centres for the assistance of mothers in child-birth. Nevertheless, it is recorded by recognised medical sanitarians that the infant rate is a sensitive index of the general health. It would seem to be apparent that there is a large field for further study and investigation of the problems associated with such a high rate in Tasmania. Tables G-J, containing statistical data in regard to infantile mortality, are appended.

TABLE G.

INFANTILE Mortality.

Number of Deaths under One Year in Tasmania for the last 20 Calendar Years.

	Year.																			
	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Deaths.	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189	231	227

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births.)

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	West Australia.	New Zealand.	North. T'tory.	Federal Cap. Ter.	Co'monwealth.
1924.....	55·0	58·9	61·3	51·2	51·3	49·9	40·2	...	...	57·0
1925.....	55·0	55·0	57·0	45·2	46·1	56·6	40·0	...	...	53·4
1926.....	46·5	57·6	55·7	50·7	44·3	49·3	39·8	...	...	54·0
1927.....	53·0	54·9	56·1	54·5	53·4	45·9	38·7	...	...	54·5
1928.....	63·9	54·9	55·6	45·5	47·5	48·1	36·2	60·2	116·7	53·0
1929.....	53·1	56·6	47·2	46·1	40·9	56·2	34·1	18·9	19·6	51·1
1930.....	50·6	49·8	46·5	40·2	48·3	46·7	34·5	70·4	24·4	47·2
1931.....	46·0	43·5	44·5	36·6	36·5	41·5	32·2	83·3	37·3	42·1
1932.....	41·2	41·1	43·0	40·3	36·6	44·6	31·2	75·9	26·5	41·3
1933.....	41·1	39·3	40·4	42·6	31·9	36·8	31·6	94·6	53·4	39·5
1934.....	42·3	46·4	44·6	40·6	35·6	40·9	32·1	68·18	7·46	43·6
1935.....	51·8	39·4	41·2	37·8	34·9	40·2	32·3	83·3	47·3	39·8
1936.....	49·6	43·5	42·3	36·3	31·1	42·2	31·0	26·6	25·3	41·1

TABLE H.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1927 to 1936.

Causes of Deaths.		1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936
7.	Measles .....	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
8.	Scarlet Fever, &c .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9.	Whooping Cough .....	...	19	11	3	8	3	4	7	...	7
10.	Diphtheria and Croup	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other Epidemic Diseases	2	...	2	...	1	1	1	...	4	4
22.	Tetanus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
24.	Tubercular Meningitis .....	...	2	1	1	2	1	...	2	1	...
34.	Syphilis .....	...	3	2	1	1	1	...	1	...	2
86.	Convulsions	7	4	1	2	3	3	2	5	5	5
106.	Bronchitis	5	5	1	3	1	2	...	1	2	2
107.	Broncho-pneumonia	11	15	12	4	13	20	18	17	22	22
108, 109.	Pneumonia	14	24	27	12	8	4	3	3	8	6
	Other Diseases of the Stomach	3	1	2	1	1	1	...	1	1	3
119.	Gastro-Enteritis, Diarrhoea, and Enteritis	31	37	21	23	12	8	9	19	10	4
157.	Congenital Defects	17	17	31	28	23	14	24	11	24	28
159, 160.	Premature Birth and Injury at Birth	101	101	72	100	86	69	73	64	90	89
158.	Debility, Marasmus	26	34	30	25	16	20	13	21	16	15
161.	Other Diseases of Early Infancy	22	14	17	20	14	20	20	11	20	23
	Other Causes	16	20	25	18	30	18	19	15	27	15
Total		256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189	231	227
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)		53.0	63.9	53.1	50.6	46.0	41.2	41.1	42.3	51.8	49.6
Total Births		4833	4691	4797	4785	4762	4491	4553	4470	4456	4581

TABLE I.

(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under One Year—1936).

Causes of Death and Classification Number.	Under 1 year.				
	Under 1 week.	1 week and under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 1 year.
7. Measles .....	...	...	...	...	1
9. Whooping Cough .....	...	...	4	3	...
10. Diphtheria .....	...	...	1	...	...
15. Erysipelas .....	...	1	...	...	1
23. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System .....	...	1	...	...	...
24. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System .....	...	...	...	...	1
34. Syphilis .....	...	1	...	...	1
54c. Non-malignant Tumour .....	...	...	...	...	1
67. Diseases of the Thymus Gland .....	...	...	1	...	...
79a. Simple Meningitis .....	...	...	...	1	...
85. Epilepsy	1	...	...	...	...
86. Convulsions.....	2	2	...	1	...
87f. Other Diseases of Nervous System .....	...	...	...	1	...
101. Diseases of Lymphatic System .....	...	...	1	...	...
106b. Bronchitis, Chronic .....	...	...	...	1	...
106c. Bronchitis, Unspecified.....	...	...	1	...	...
107a. Broncho-Pneumonia .....	...	1	4	6	10
107b. Capillary Bronchitis.....	...	...	...	...	1
108. Lobar Pneumonia	2	...	...	1	2
109. Pneumonia, not specified .....	...	...	...	...	1
119. Diarrhoea and Enteritis.....	...	...	...	1	3
122b. Intestinal Obstruction .....	...	2	...	...	1
130. Acute Nephritis .....	...	...	...	1	...
153. Other Diseases of the Skin and Annexa and Cellular Tissues .....	...	1	...	...	...
157. Congenital Malformations ...	13	8	4	2	1
158. Congenital Debility	8	3	3	1	...
159. Premature Birth	66	8	1	...	...
160. Injury at Birth	13	1	...	...	...
161a. Atelectasis	11	...	...	...	...
161b. Icterus Neonatorum	1	...	...	...	...
161d. Sclerema and other Diseases	8	2	1	...	...
180. Accidental Burns (Conflagration).....	...	...	...	...	1
181. Accidental Burns (Conflagrations, excepted).....	...	...	...	...	1
182. Accidental Mechanical Suffocation .....	...	...	2	1	1
195f. Other Violent Deaths (nature not stated	1	...	...	...	...
Total	126	31	23	20	27

TABLE J.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of Deaths under One Year during 1932-1936.

Causes of Death.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Whooping Cough.....	3	4	7	...	7
Convulsions	3	3	5	5	5
Bronchitis	2	...	1	2	2
Broncho-Pneumonia.....	20	18	17	22	22
Pneumonia.....	4	3	3	8	6
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	8	9	19	10	4
Congenital Debility	20	13	16	16	15
Syphilis	1	...	1	...	2
Malformations	14	24	11	24	28
Prematurity and injury at Birth	69	73	69	90	89
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	20	20	21	20	23

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT.

Legislation.—The regulations in force under the Act have been reviewed as a preliminary measure to their consolidation and amendment in directions considered necessary.

Places of Public Entertainment.—The principal places of public entertainment throughout the State are in conformity with the requirements of the law.

The position in so far as small halls in country districts are concerned is not so satisfactory. Inspectors are continually bringing under notice the fact that many of these buildings do not comply in detail with the Act and regulations framed thereunder. In considering requirements in respect of these small halls, every consideration is given to any peculiar local conditions, compatible with the safety and well-being of the public, in order to avoid inflicting any hardship upon those immediately concerned. The provision of adequate and satisfactory sanitary accommodation at these halls is often questioned by those whose duty it is to comply with the law. Unless the circumstances are exceptional, at least reasonable compliance with the requirements is insisted upon.

Biograph Machinery.—Under date the 17th September, 1936, the Secretary of the Film Renters' Association of Australia reported a very marked improvement in the condition of the biograph machinery in use at places of public entertainment, a result due to the co-operation of the Department in the carrying out of the recommendations of the Association.

Cinematograph Operators.—Licences to the number of 73 (69 full and 4 provisional) were issued during the year.

Legal proceedings were instituted against an unlicensed operator, the fine and costs amounting to 18s.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Amendment of Regulations.—A new Regulation 81A.—Eggs)—came into force on the 9th October, 1936. This regulation provides, *inter alia*, for the marking of chilled and preserved eggs.

Regulation No. 70 (Spirits) was amended on the 19th March, by the addition of the following new paragraph under the heading "Labeling":—"2. All spirits sold in bottles under the label or name of any manufacturer, packer, bottler, or agent shall contain, in or in the immediate proximity to the label describing such spirits, a statement in the following form: 'Bottled by..... [here insert the name and address of the bottler.]'

Food Standards Committee.—Mr. A. J. Miller was re-appointed a member of the Food Standards Committee on the 14th July, 1936.

Sild.—The attention directed to this matter in the previous year owing to the presence of metallic tin in excess of two grains per lb. led to a marked improvement in this foodstuff. In contrast with the previous year, when some 11,000 tins of sild were seized, only one parcel was found to contain metallic tin in excess of the quantity allowed by the regulation.

Flour.—The examination of samples of flour failed to detect that a bleaching agent was present or that any indication of bleaching had been carried out.

Condensed Milk.—A sample of condensed milk was found to be in a deteriorated condition, and unfit for human consumption. The article was subsequently withdrawn from the market.

Mutton Bird Industry.—The annual supervision exercised over this industry by a departmental officer is showing excellent results. With few exceptions, the premises in which the birds are prepared for sale now comply with requirements.

Fish.—On the 19th June, 1936, Sergeant Challenger of the Police Department was appointed an Inspector of Food and Drugs, for the specific purpose of exercising supervision over fish shops, boats, sheds, and other places where fish are prepared or kept for sale. The duties performed by this officer have been responsible for a marked improvement in this food.

Spirituous Liquors.—Nine hundred and ninety tests of spirituous liquors sold at hotels and public-houses were made by inspectors.

Food Sampling.—References to the work performed under this heading are contained in Appendices II. and V.

Offences.—Legal proceedings were successfully instituted in nine cases for breaches of the Act and regulations, the fines and costs amounting to £19 16s.

Inspection.—During the course of sanitary surveys of municipal districts, officers of the Department paid due attention to premises used for the preparation, sale, and storage of food.

Meat.—The inspection of meat in Tasmania is generally unsatisfactory. There are many districts in which inspection is practically non-existent, either owing to no official being competent to undertake the work or the scattered location of private slaughter-houses rendering it impossible for regular and systematic inspection to be carried out at the time of slaughter. The efficient supervision and control of meat supplies is hardly

possible without centralised slaughtering, where adequate inspectorial services are provided. The major portion of the State could readily be served by public abattoirs, and every endeavour will be made to interest the authorities concerned in the matter.

BUSH NURSING.

It is gratifying to record further increased activities in most of the Bush Nursing centres, as revealed by the following statistics for 1935 and the year under review:—

Year.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Maternity Cases.	Child Welfare Visits.
1935...	5735	7634	1043	149	4206
1936...	9083	8866	1215	184	4743

Needless to say, the Department welcomes the extension of the service, particularly in those districts remote from medical and other nursing assistance.

Unfortunately, difficulty is experienced in securing nurses for Bush Nursing appointments; advertisements inserted from time to time meeting with very little response, with the consequent restriction of choice as to the suitability of applicants for the conditions under which they are required to function. Ways and means will need to be devised to overcome this drawback to the Bush Nursing scheme.

The centre at Bruny Island was consolidated by the opening of the Bush Nursing hospital on the 17th October. In addition to providing satisfactory lodging for the nurse, the hospital has accommodation for a maternity and an emergency medical patient.

A summarised statement of work performed in each of the centres during the year is subjoined (Table K).

TABLE K.
BUSH NURSING.—Summary of Work Performed during the Year ended 31st December, 1936.

Centre.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Maternity Cases.	Ante-natal Visits.	Child Welfare Visits.	School Visits.	Mileage.	Fees Earned.	Ward Beds.
									£ s. d.	
Adamsfield	211	345	15	1	10	11	...	343	...	2
Avoca	171	336	4	3	32	169	14	1168	39 14 6	...
Bruny Island.	113	47	141	6	14	37	4	1318	73 3 1	2
Burnie.....	3	419	34	29	112	1057	16	3487	93 0 3	...
Cygnnet	341	570	56	18	99	461	20	4978	194 3 5	...
Flinders Island	135	94	48	3	19	93	9	1225	45 14 0	...
Lilydale	210	488	...	8	16	430	26	3983	124 18 11	...
Marrawah	342	293	102	6	17	66	7	1622	103 4 0	2
Ouse	363	469	168	10	55	60	...	1173	144 12 3	1
Ringarooma ...	54	307	31	10	34	69	6	959	67 15 0	...
Rosebery	3160	1190	200	21	21	116	2	1687	...	2
Rossarden	1028	444	...	...	18	99	1	649	...	...
Southport	62	268	79	7	28	60	25	1794	72 9 7	2
Swansea	196	597	12	12	37	306	3	852	109 2 6	...
Tasman	156	238	136	13	40	120	1	4504	162 17 1	4
Tullah	1563	1429	40	3	51	105	10	928	...	2
Ulverstone	11	623	40	20	66	1484	43	4721	85 15 9	...
Waratah	964	709	109	14	18	...	...	1743	...	1
Total.....	9083	8866	1215	184	687	4743	187	37,134	1316 10 4	18

NOTE.—The Ringarooma Centre opened in April, 1936.

In accordance with recognised practice, the Department has kept in close touch with the activities of the various centres, chiefly through the Supervisory Nurse, who visits the districts from time to time, for the purpose of affording advice and assistance as required.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to record my appreciation of the services rendered by officers of the

Department since I assumed the office of Director of Public Health. I am also grateful for the kindness and consideration extended to me from time to time by officers of other Departments.

I have, &c.,

B. M. CARRUTHERS,
Director of Public Health.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 24th May, 1937.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report regarding the administration of the Factories, Wages Boards, Workers' Compensation, and Shops Acts for the year 1936.

Factories Act.

Registration of Factories.—Factories registered during the year numbered 1264, a decrease of five compared with the previous year. Fees for registration totalled £471 17s. 6d.

Employees in Factories.—Ten thousand seven hundred and twenty-four persons (8219 males and 2505 females) were employed in registered factories, an increase of 1096 over the previous year. Of the added employees, 710 were males and 386 were females. The increased volume of employment in factories denotes the continuance of a definitely improved industrial outlook.

Factory Inspection and Hygiene.—Each registered factory was inspected on at least one occasion, either by officers of this Department or of local authorities, with the object of ensuring that workers were employed under reasonably hygienic conditions.

One hundred and six requisitions served upon occupiers were duly complied with.

Horsepower of Machinery Used in Factories.—Machinery used in the various factories throughout the State equalled 98,213 horsepower.

Statistics.—A table containing statistical data with respect to factories registered during the year 1936 is subjoined (Table L).

Wages Boards Act.

Wages Boards.—Fifty-six wages boards were existent at the 31st December, 1936. A new determination was made by each of the following boards:—

Designation of Board.	Date Determination came into Operation.
Builders and Painters'	6.11.36
Bootmakers'	17.9.36
Carriers'	6.11.36
Cement Makers'	29.4.36
Clothing Makers'	1.3.36
Coachbuilders'	3.4.36
Electrical Engineers'	13.3.36
Electrolytic Zinc	1.7.36
Fruiterers'	17.5.36
Furniture-makers'	14.8.36
Hotelkeepers'	4.12.36
Insurance	29.12.36
Mining (Lead-Zinc)	18.11.36
Motor-garage	1.5.36
Produce	1.3.36
Quarrymen's	1.3.36
Racket-makers'	14.5.36
Retail Grocers	17.5.36
Shipping	7.8.36
Timber Merchants'	1.7.36
Threshers'	1.3.36

The following boards were reconstituted during the year:—Bootmakers' Brickmakers' Butchers', City Councils', Hotelkeepers', Marine Boards, Mining (Lead-Zinc), and Wholesale Grocers'.

Inspections, &c.—Close attention has been directed by departmental inspectors to the enforcement of determinations of boards. Inspections carried out throughout the State revealed 550 breaches in connection with the employment of workers. These breaches were adjusted by the

employers concerned, who were warned that the Department would have recourse to legal action for any recurring offence. In addition to these adjustments (which benefited employees as a whole very materially), the Department was instrumental in securing the sum of £1376 to various employees who sought assistance for the recovery of arrears of wages.

Prosecutions were instituted against two employers for non-payment of determination rates, fines and costs amounting to £17 11s. 9d.

Apprentices.—Indentures of apprenticeship registered by the Department during the years 1931 to 1936 were as follows:—

Year.	No.
1931.... ..	13
1932.... ..	12
1933.... ..	12
1934.... ..	61
1935.... ..	92
1936.... ..	100

The continuance of an increase in the number of apprentices since the years of depression calls for favourable comment, in view of the important bearing apprenticeship has on the future of industry, particularly in the skilled trades.

During the period under review, 25 licences were issued to apprentices who were unable to complete their term of apprenticeship before attaining the age of 21 years.

Improvers' Licences.—Six licences were issued under this heading.

Licences Granted to Aged, Slow, or Infirm Workers.—Eighteen licences were issued under this heading, in accordance with Section 27 of the Act.

Shops Act.

Small Shops.—Small shops to the number of 717 were registered during the year. Fees amounting to £353 10s. were received from this source.

Small Shop Assistants.—Two hundred and thirty-five licences were issued to assistants in small shops, and £59 2s. 6d. were received in fees under this heading.

Tobacco Licences.—The number of licences issued to persons to sell tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes totalled 1782. An amount of £866 7s. 6d. was received in respect of such licences.

Newsvendors' Licences.—Eighty-one licences were issued to persons to sell newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and stamps. Fees amounted to £35 15s.

Workers' Compensation Act.

Many workers entitled to the benefits of this law, as the result of accident arising out of and in the course of employment, have sought advice and availed themselves of the facilities provided by the Department as a means of securing payment of compensation.

Thirty-five claims taken up on behalf of workers resulted in the payment of compensation amounting to £2027 0s. 1d., without recourse to legal proceedings.

Compulsory Insurance.—Departmental inspectors report general compliance by employers with respect to those provisions of the law relating to compulsory insurance. Orders were served upon 37 employers, requiring the production for inspection of policies of insurance. With one exception, these orders were complied with. A prosecution ensued in the remaining case, and the employer concerned was convicted and fined 16s. 6d.

I have, &c.,

E. J. TUDOR, Chief Inspector of Factories,
The Director of Public Health.

PERSONS EMPLOYED, BY CLASS OF FACTORY, CLASSIFIED BY INDUSTRY, 1936.

Compiled from Applications for Registration of Factories Received from 1st January, 1936, to 31st December, 1936, and Showing Tasmanian Factories in Analysed Sections, Together with the Number of Employees, their Ages and Hours of Work.

Class of Factory.	No. of Factories.	Employers Engaged in the Trade.	Ages (Male Employees).								Ages (Female Employees).								Total Male Employees.	Total Female Employees.	Hours of Work per Week.
			14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.			
SECTION 1.—Treating Raw Material.																					
1. Abattoirs	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	46	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	..	41-47
2. Tanneries	3	2	2	5	2	2	5	1	2	33	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	..	44
3. Wool-scouring, &c.	10	2	..	1	3	4	5	4	2	81	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	100	..	44
4. Bark Mills	3	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	48
Total.....	18	6	2	6	5	6	13	6	4	174	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	216	..	..
SECTION 2.—Oils and Fats.																					
5. Soap, candles, acid, and soda	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	48
SECTION 3.—Processes in Stone, Clay, &c.																					
6. Bricks, Tiles, Concrete Pipes, and Pottery.....	12	5	5	3	3	5	6	2	1	142	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	167	..	48
7. Stone-crushing.....	8	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	57	..	48
8. Stone-dressing	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	44
Total	22	8	5	3	5	5	6	2	1	200	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227	..	..
SECTION 4.—Working in Wood.																					
9. Joiners and Builders	50	34	1	7	10	8	8	6	3	144	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	187	..	44
10. Sawmills	169	123	9	19	29	36	23	34	21	1127	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1298	..	46
11. Wood and Coal Yards	131	127	3	2	3	5	3	1	5	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73	..	48
12. Wood-turning, Bending, Woodworking, and Peg-making	7	9	..	8	8	6	3	4	2	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42	..	48
13. Tool Handles	1	..	..	2	1	4	3	4	..	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	..	48
14. Tennis Racquets, &c.	1	..	8	9	19	18	15	11	11	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	156	3	44
15. Wood-wool	6	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	48
16. Case-making	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	47
17. Clothes Pegs	2	..	1	2	3	2	4	3	..	30	..	3	..	5	5	8	4	14	45	39	..
Total	369	295	22	49	73	79	61	65	44	1488	..	3	..	5	5	8	4	17	1881	42	..
SECTION 5.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.																					
18. Engineering	23	9	1	6	12	12	11	10	9	195	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	256	..	44
19. Electrical Engineering	9	3	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	..	46½
20. Lock Manufacturing	1	1	..	2	2	1	1	1	2	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	..	44
21. Motor-garages	79	41	10	18	15	22	22	16	21	229	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	353	..	44
22. Foundries (Brass)	5	4	..	1	..	4	3	1	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	..	44
23. Railway & Tramway Shops	5	..	..	..	2	2	2	2	1	418	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	427	..	44
24. Tinsmith and Plumbing.....	11	5	3	4	3	4	4	2	4	55	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	79	..	44
25. Other Metal Works	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	44
26. Razor Blades	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	3	1	7	..
Total	135	63	15	33	37	45	44	33	39	956	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	3	1202	7	..
SECTION 6.—Trades connected with Food and Drink.																					
27. Bacon-curing	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	17	2	47
28. Butchers (Smallgoods)	101	75	..	3	11	8	10	7	7	120	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	166	..	47
29. Biscuits	2	1	14	14	9	8	7	4	2	35	3	10	6	5	6	2	2	1	93	35	48
30. Bakers	194	137	3	16	20	14	15	13	14	231	..	..	1	2	1	2	2	9	326	17	48
31. Confectionery, &c.	3	..	4	13	14	19	14	11	4	158	11	67	34	27	18	13	8	117	237	295	44-48
32. Flourmillers, &c.....	6	2	..	..	..	2	2	..	1	70	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75	..	48
33. Jam-making, Fruit-pulping, and Fruit-preserving	7	..	21	21	22	19	43	28	27	521	8	8	8	2	38	42	40	85	702	231	48
34. Fruit and Vegetable Drying	8	12	..	2	6	6	5	4	3	36	..	1	9	1	8	5	10	42	62	76	48
35. Cider	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	48
36. Aerated Waters and Cordials	14	7	1	6	3	4	3	2	..	29	3	2	..	2	..	..	1	3	48	11	48
37. Breweries	2	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80	..	48
38. Condiments	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3	4	5	48
39. Ice and Refrigerating, &c....	7	2	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	41	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43	..	48
40. Pickles and Sauce.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	48
41. Self-raising Flour	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
42. Sausage Casing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	47
43. Grain Crushing & Cleaning	5	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	..	48
44. Cakes.....	43	38	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	6	2	1	..	5	5	4	5	14	9	36	48
45. Pastry	34	33	..	2	1	..	1	1	..	4	..	..	1	..	..	1	3	6	9	11	48
Total..	440	319	43	78	88	84	102	73	60	1367	27	89	60	44	76	69	72	286	1895	723	..

Class of Factory.	No. of Factories.	Employers Engaged in the Trade.	Ages (Male Employees).								Ages (Female Employees).								Total Male Employees.	Total Female Employees.	Hours of Work per Week
			14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.			
SECTION 7.—Clothing and Textile Fabrics, &c.																					
46. Woollen Mills and Spinning, &c.....	6	6	30	33	36	43	20	41	29	365	42	74	67	81	64	74	72	492	597	966	44
47. Boot-manufacturing	8	8	1	2	2	...	1	2	1	32	1	1	4	1	3	1	1	12	41	24	44
48. Tailors	16	8	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	51	...	...	3	3	4	2	4	70	54	86	44
49. Dresses and Millinery	19	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	6	13	10	...	6	5	54	1	95	44
50. Knitted Goods, &c.	3	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	10	17	9	9	7	6	1	3	15	12	67	45
51. Shirts and Clothing	9	10	1	...	1	3	3	1	1	19	8	24	29	13	16	15	21	71	29	197	45
52. Tents, Tarpaulins, &c.	2	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	45
Total	63	46	32	36	41	48	24	45	32	484	69	114	125	115	93	99	106	714	742	1435	...
SECTION 8.—Books, Printing, &c.																					
53. Printing	22	21	5	12	11	12	16	20	6	372	1	12	9	10	9	9	13	55	454	118	42-4
SECTION 9.—Vehicles, Saddlery.																					
54. Coaches and Waggon and Motor Bodies	21	23	2	8	8	10	4	13	5	104	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154	...	44
55. Cycles and Motors	6	8	...	2	2	1	...	1	2	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	...	44
56. Saddlery	4	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	11	2	48
Total	31	36	2	11	11	11	4	14	10	123	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	186	2	...
SECTION 10.—Shipbuilding.																					
57. Ship and Boat Building	4	3	...	1	...	...	1	..	1	19	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	22	...	44
SECTION 11.—Furniture, Bedding, &c.																					
58. Bedding and Flocks	6	5	...	1	...	1	...	1	3	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	13	4	48
59. Furniture	57	45	5	11	14	10	9	11	10	139	...	...	3	1	3	1	...	11	209	19	44
Total	63	50	5	12	14	11	9	12	13	146	...	...	4	1	3	1	...	14	222	23	...
SECTION 12.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products.																					
60. Chemicals	3	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	..	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	15	7	47-48
61. Fertilisers	10	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	26	2	48
Total ..	13	6	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	41	9	...
SECTION 13.—Timepieces, Jewellery, &c.																					
62. Jewellery	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	44-48
SECTION 14.—Heat, Light, and Power.																					
63. Electric Light and Power ...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	...	44
64. Gas Manufacture.....	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66	...	44-48
Total	17	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	124	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	128	...	...
SECTION 15.— (not elsewhere included).																					
65. Brooms, Brushware, &c	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	48
66. (Laundry (Chinese)	7	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
66. ((European).....	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	4	3	2	1	...	13	5	23	44-48
67. Dyer and Cleaner	6	4	...	1	1	2	...	2	1	5	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	12	5	48
68. Produce.....	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	48
69. Paint Manufacturing	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	44
70. Tyre Vulcanizing	6	3	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	13	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	18	3	48
71. Other Minor Wares	33	19	4	3	7	7	7	5	3	78	1	7	1	3	...	3	2	20	114	37	44-48
Total	64	43	5	4	8	11	7	8	6	109	1	8	7	7	2	4	2	37	158	68	...
GRAND TOTAL.....	1264	896	137	245	294	314	289	279	220	5623	98	226	206	184	188	190	200	1135	7401	2427	...

APPENDIX II.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 26th April, 1937.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed by the inspectorial staff of the Department during the year 1936.

Staff.

The staff consists of the following officers:—Chief Inspector J. Riley, M.R.S.I.; Inspector H. H. Parker, A.R.S.I.; Inspector H. T. D’Alton, A.R.S.I.—stationed at Hobart; and Inspector D. S. Clark, Cert. R.S.I.; and Inspector T. Orr, Cert. R.S.I.—stationed at Launceston.

Sanitary Surveys and General Inspections.

Each municipal district throughout the State was visited on at least one occasion for purposes of a sanitary survey. Follow-up inspections, and special inspections as required, were also undertaken; the latter including inquiries in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, and the investigation of drainage problems, water-supplies, pollution of streams, places of public entertainment, installation of bacteriolytic tanks, and other problems associated with the public health.

General inspections and investigations comprised—

Food premises (butchers, bakers, &c.)	480
Bacteriolytic tanks, sites, &c.	179
Buildings, insanitary	19
Public buildings and places of public entertainment (including plans of new buildings and of alterations to existing buildings)	319
Cemeteries and crematories	8
Dairying premises	218
Drainage	105
Garbage services	91
Hospitals	85
Infectious diseases, inquiries re	48
Licensed premises	220
Offensive trades	273
Schools, sanitation of	286
Reserves, racecourses, &c.	74
Sewage disposal	29
Water-supplies	47
Sanitary depots	55
Sale-yards	37
Picture theatres (overcrowding)	18
Beaches, baths, &c.—pollution of	6
Boarding and accommodation houses	52
Hop-fields and small-fruit orchards (housing accommodation)	187
Construction camps and quarries	35
Fumigation by cyanide, &c.	9
Miscellaneous	94

Health Inspectors’ Conference.

A conference and class of instruction for health inspectors was held at Launceston during the week ended the 17th October. The support accorded the conference by the various local health authorities in facilitating the attendance of their officers was much appreciated.

Pollution of Domestic Water-Supplies.

Various investigations were made regarding possible pollution of rivers and creeks from which domestic water-supplies were obtained. Owing to the likelihood of pollution of such supplies from workmen and others camped on the banks of streams, special inspections had to be undertaken to enforce the regulations. In some instances it was found necessary to have such camps removed to more remote sites.

It is pleasing to record that some local authorities are now adopting specific by-laws to prevent owners of sawmills from discharging sawdust into streams which are utilised for domestic water-supplies.

Installation of Bacteriological Tanks.

With improved supplies of water, due to a great extent to cheap electric power for pumping, a large number of bacteriological tanks is being installed in all parts of the State. These tanks must be installed in accordance with plans approved by the Department, the final certificate not being issued until inspection reveals that the tank has been installed to the satisfaction of the Department.

Examinations, Royal Sanitary Institute.

During the month of October, examinations under the auspices of the Royal Sanitary Institute were held at Hobart, to enable persons to qualify for certificates issued by the Institute. Of the eleven candidates who presented themselves for the Sanitary Inspector’s Certificate, the following were successful:—

- F. V. Bates, Public Health Department, Hobart.
- H. T. D’Alton, Public Health Department, Hobart.
- R. Wardlaw, Health Inspector, Burnie.

Five candidates sat for the Certificate of Inspector of Meat and other Foods, three of whom qualified, viz.:—

- A. Gillam, Health Inspector, Hobart.
- C. W. Barren, Health Inspector, Hobart.
- F. Rice, Health Inspector, Queenstown.

Conferences of Instruction—Mainland States.

Inspector Parker was afforded facilities to attend the Health Inspectors’ Conference at Sydney in September, where he had the opportunity of hearing lectures given by scientists and other persons holding important posts in public health work.

The Chief Health Inspector also visited New South Wales in December, to obtain first-hand knowledge of the modern chain method of slaughtering and inspection.

Inspection of Dairies.

A forward step was made during the year to improve the condition of dairies in certain parts of the State. Frequent inspections were made to enforce the by-laws, and, as a result, it can be said that a number of such dairy farms are now improved structurally, and better equipped for supplying a good and clean milk to the public.

Food and Drugs.

During the year, 205 samples of foods and drugs were taken for analytical examination. Prosecutions were instituted in ten cases (one of which was withdrawn) for selling foodstuffs not in accordance with prescribed standards, and fines and costs amounting to £19 16s. were inflicted. Following the usual practice, warnings were issued in cases where the amount of adulteration was small, or for minor breaches of the law.

A complete list of the samples taken by officers is shown hereunder:—

Coffee	3
Coffee and chicory	5
Cream	16
Honey	4
Sausage	8
Yeetos (yeast substitute)	1
Bread (wholemeal)	3
Kwic Bru	1
Butter (factory, dairy, and substitutes)	15
Spirits and wines	4
Milk (fresh)	37
Milk (condensed, &c.)	9
Curry powder	2
Breakfast food	3
Essences	5
Cocoa	7
Meat and fish pastes	5
Custard powders	1
Cornflour	1
Crystallised cherries	1
Vinegar	9
Pepper	5
Tinned fish, oysters, and scallops	16
Cheese	4
Water	4
Olive oil	4
Cream of tartar	5
Miscellaneous	27

205

Twelve hundred mutton-birds were seized owing to their being unwholesome, and therefore unfit for human consumption.

Testing and Sampling of Spirits.

The testing of spirits at hotels and public-houses throughout the State was continued during the year. Altogether, 990 samples of spirits were tested and all doubtful ones forwarded to the Government Analyst for final review.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY, Chief Health Inspector.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX III.

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT PATHOLOGIST.

Public Hospital, Hobart, 24th May. 1937.

SIR,

THE staff consists of—

C. Duncan, M.B., Pathologist.

G. Haddow, Bacteriologist.

R. Prouse, Assistant.

During the year the laboratory continued to perform routine pathological work for Government Departments, the Hobart Public Hospital, and private practitioners—all infectious work being done free for the latter.

No. 1.—Examination of Materials for Infectious Diseases.

	No. of Specimen.	Positive.
Diphtheria—		
Cultures	10,374	952
Direct smears	5	1
Gonorrhœa—		
Smears	919	160
Culture	1	1
Syphilis—Dark-ground illumination	1	1
Tuberculosis—		
Sputum	1,456	483
Pleuræ fluid	8	
Urine	33	
Guinea-pig inoculation	1	
Fæces	1	
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers—		
Blood agglutinations	53	3
Fæces for culture	13	
Urine for culture	15	
Dysentery—Fæces for culture	7	1
Vincent's augina smears	7	1
Scarlet fever—Cultures	2	1
Undulant fever—Blood agglutination	1	
Trichomonas vaginalis—		
Smears	34	11
Urine	2	2
Hydatids—		
Sputum	6	1
Fæces	1	
Pleural fluid	1	1
Actino mycosis	4	
Other cultures—		
Routine throat swabs for hæmolytic streptococci	333	6
Urine	98	80
Blood cultures	26	3
Sputa	1	1
Pus	24	21
Cerebro-spinal fluid	17	3

Summary of the Work of the Nurses.

Centre.	Visits to Individual New-born Babies.	Subsequent Visits to Mothers.	Visits to Expectant Mothers.	Individual Babies Attending.	Total Attendances by Babies.	Total Attendances by Expectant Mothers.
Hobart	355	3525	66	948	7532	125
North Hobart	300	1330	72	426	3714	158
Moonah	154	1374	95	363	3297	43
Glenorchy	43	351	14	80	531	10
Bellerive	8	50	4	28	116	2
New Norfolk	27	92	—	76	380	5
Geeveston	—	—	—	71	525	—
Huonville	—	—	—	29	67	3
Pelverata	—	—	—	10	23	—
Total	887	6722	251	2031	16,185	346

No. of Specimen. Positive.

Pleural fluid	27	11
Eyes	17	15
Knee joint fluids, &c.	5	3
Total	13,493	

No. 2.—Pathological Examinations.

Blood—		
Red cell count	153	
White cell count	183	
Hæmoglobin estimation	131	
Film	116	
Differential count	8	
Sedimentation rate	13	
Fragility	3	
Reticulo-cyte count	3	
Typing	49	
Urea	28	
Sugar	6	
Calcium	1	
Fouchet	2	
Cerebro-spinal fluid—		
Cells	28	
Chlorides and protein	14	
Urea	2	
Urine—		
Microscopic examination	453	
Chemical examination	11	
Urea examination	18	
Diastase examination	4	
Fæces—		
Microscopical examination	3	
Occult blood	38	20
Test meals	2	
Vaccines	3	
Sections, biopsies	159	
Frozen sections	2	
Sections—post mortem, &c.	35	
Total	1,468	

No. 3.—Foods, Waters, &c.

Water—	
Quantitative	12
Qualitative	5
Milk—Bacterial content	1

No. 4.—Autopsies and Court Attendances.

Autopsies for hospitals	33
Autopsies for coroner	24
Attendances at Coroner's Court	11

I have, &c.,

C. DUNCAN,

Government Pathologist.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX IV.

Child Welfare Association,
Hobart, 30th March, 1937.

SIR,

THE following report gives a brief account of the work of the nurses for the year 1936:—
Visits paid by the nurses, and attendance at the clinics, are summarised hereunder—

New Centres, &c.

Three new centres were opened during the year, viz., Bellerive, Huonville, and Pelterata.

The centre at New Norfolk is now open every Friday afternoon.

In addition to the usual clinic hours at the North Hobart and Moonah Centres, an evening session for pre-natal attendances has been held every Thursday.

Staff.

During the year a sixth nurse was appointed to the staff.

Classes.

Nine classes of girls from the State schools have attended a course of lessons in mothercraft and infant hygiene. A class of girl guides has also attended for instruction in connection with the obtaining of the Child Nurse Badge.

Correspondence.

Letters, numbering 144, have been received from mothers requiring advice in regard to the feeding and care of their babies, and 305 printed leaflets of advice were posted to mothers living beyond our visiting area.

General.

Students from the Mothercraft Home attended the centres during their training to gain experience in district work.

Milk has been supplied to 55 mothers with young children.

Creches were held as usual at the Hobart Regatta, the New Norfolk Regatta, and the Royal Agricultural and Pastoral Show.

I have, &c.,

C. BONNILY, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Baby Health Association,
Launceston, 30th March, 1937.

SIR,
THE following is a report of our work for the year 1936:—

Number of attendances at the Launceston Clinic	10,716
Number of attendances at the Invermay Clinic	1,252
Number of attendances at the Newstead Clinic	2,178
Number of attendances at the Sandhill Clinic	192
Total visits to clinics	14,338

No. of Days on which Clinic was open.	Total Attendances at Clinic.	Daily Average of Attendances.	Individual Babies.	First Visits.	Ante-Natal Advice.	Referred to Doctor.		Advice sought by Letter.	Advice given by Letter.	Advice by Telephone.	Visits by Nurse to Homes.				
						Babies.	Mothers.				Effective.	Ineffective.	Pre-Natal.	Newly-born Babies.	Total Visits.
166	893	5.3	104	62	16	17	8	5	4	2	160	29	8	43	189

NOTE.—From May to December, 1936, the clinic was open on only two days per week.

Throughout the last financial year the work of the Baby Clinic has been conducted independently of “Windermere” or any other hospital.

During the year fresh cows’ milk, Karilac, and Kariol, in addition to a number of babies’ garments, have been supplied to mothers in poor circumstances.

There still persists a tendency to wean babies in the early months (indeed weeks) of life and feed them on artificial foods, especially condensed milk. In the light

of modern teaching this would seem to constitute a serious menace to their welfare, and, in many instances, to that of the mothers also.

I have, &c.,

R. H. LADE, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Number of new babies at the Launceston Clinic	465
Number of new babies at the Invermay Clinic	81
Number of new babies at the Newstead Clinic	46
Number of new babies at the Sandhill Clinic	11
Total new babies at clinics	603
Number of visits paid to homes by the sisters	3,018
Number of new babies visited in their homes	731
Number of expectant mothers at the clinics	171
Number of expectant mothers visited in their homes	63

New Babies.

There were 603 new babies, of which 526 were wholly or partially breast-fed and 77 were artificially fed when first brought to the clinics. Four hundred and twenty-six were normal, healthy babies; 40 were premature; and the others consisted of babies who were undernourished (53) or suffering from digestive complaints (84).

Letters and Literature.

One hundred and twenty letters have been written to country mothers who have sought our advice about the feeding and care of their babies. An article dealing with child welfare has been published for us weekly in “The Examiner” and also quarterly in the “Journal of Agriculture.” Literature has been distributed as necessary.

Mothercraft Lectures.

The education of schoolgirls in mothercraft principles has been carried out diligently during the year, and classes of interested girls from the colleges and various State schools in Launceston have been included in this most important section of our work. Ninety-six Mothercraft Certificates have been issued to schoolgirls and twelve to girl guides during 1936. Lectures have also been given to Mothers’ Unions, Young People’s Associations, &c.

I have, &c.,

O. M. GREEN, Sister-in-Charge.

The Director of Public Health.

Child Welfare Association,
Devonport, 30th April, 1937.

SIR,
THE following is a report of our work for the twelve months ended 30th April, 1937:—

APPENDIX V.

Government Laboratory,
Hobart, 15th April, 1937.

SIR,

In submitting my report on the work of the two chemical laboratories for the year ending 31st December, 1936, I would again call attention to the very bad conditions which still prevail in Mr. Johnstone's laboratory owing to lack of equipment, especially as regards ventilation.

With regard to my own laboratory, the need for our being in closer touch with the other branches of our department is being increasingly felt, and the Technical College is again pressing for further accommodation in this building. It is earnestly hoped that these three birds may be killed with one stone during the current year.

During the old regime our apparatus and equipment fell much behind the times. New and more efficient methods and apparatus are constantly being devised, and if these laboratories are to be kept anywhere nearly up to date, a sum of from £300 to £500 is urgently required. Up to the present it has only been possible to make a very small start in this direction.

Revenue.—The amount received in fees from municipalities and private persons was £205 13s. 6d.

The amount received during the year from the Commonwealth Government (Customs Department) for work done during the financial year ending 30.6.35 was £212 13s. 8d.

Return of Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's Laboratory during the Year ending 31st December, 1936.

	No. of Samples.
Baking powder and self-raising flour	6
Beer and cordials	24
Butter	225
Cereals	12
Cheese	4
Confectionery, honey, sugar	10
Cream and condensed milk	31
Drugs and chemicals	29
Essences	15
Fish, fresh and tinned	19
Fruit and vegetables, fresh and canned	9
Fruit and vegetables, jam	3
Fruit and vegetables, pulp and evaporated	1
Hydrometers	20
Kerosene	10
Milk, cows'	380
Milk, human	13
Minerals and metals	11
Motor spirit	8
Oils and fats (edible)	9
Oils, lubricating, &c.	140
Paint	19
Poisons and other tests for Police Department	57
Sauces and condiments	10
Spirits and wines	18
Tea, coffee, cocoa	16
Textiles and paper	9
Thermometers	14
Vinegar and vinegar essence	8
Water	85
Fertilisers	6
Miscellaneous	68
Total	1,288

Return Showing Sources of Samples Examined in the Government Analyst's Laboratory during the Year ending 31st December, 1936.

	No. of Samples.
Customs Department (Commonwealth)	370
Public Health Department	260
Railway Department	88
Police Department	22
Other Government Departments	19
Hobart Local Authority	243
Other Municipalities	80
Hospitals and clinics	80
Private firms and persons	126
Total	1,288

Butter.

Thirty-six samples intended for export contained over 16 per cent. of water; of these 11 contained less than 16.2 per cent., 18 between 16.2 per cent. and 16.5 per cent., and only 7 over 16.5 per cent.

Of butter for local consumption, two samples contained a fraction over 16 per cent., and one contained over 19 per cent. of water, and was also deficient in milk fat.

Cream and Condensed Milk.

Four creams showed deficiencies in milk fat ranging from 12.5 per cent. to 37.4 per cent. below the minimum. Two others showed small deficiencies.

Two samples of condensed milk of the same brand were unfit for consumption, due, evidently, to faulty manufacture, and another was not up to standard when diluted as directed on the label.

Milk.

Thirty-one samples, being 8.15 per cent. of the total received, were deficient or adulterated, 13 contained added water, 4 were deficient in milk fat, while 8 showed slight deficiencies only.

Last year (1935) only one sample contained added water, but the proportion of deficient samples was 12 per cent.

Curry Powder.

Two samples contained over 14 per cent. of salt. This is not a legitimate ingredient of curry powder, and, in view of its low cost, I consider it to be definitely an adulterant of this condiment.

Human Hair.

Twenty-five samples were examined for the presence of arsenic in connection with an investigation connected with fruit-spraying, and varying quantities were found.

Oils (Edible).

Attempts are made from time to time to palm off inferior oils as virgin olive oil from France. These are yellow in colour instead of pale green, and the labels usually exhibit some very "English" French, which tends to "give the show away."

Oils (Mineral).

Sixty-eight lubricating oils, one each of which 8 or 9 determinations are made for the Railway Department, showed variations from specifications in respect of 36 determinations.

Poisons.

Lysol was found in one case of poisoning of a human being.

Strychnine was found in the remains of a dog, and also in some ducks.

Some pollard intended for food for animals was found to contain a large quantity of strychnine.

Sardines.

In contrast with the previous year, only one sample was found to contain metallic tin in excess of requirement, viz., 2.1 grains per lb., a very small excess.

Sausages.

In three cases excess starch had been added, 16.6 per cent, 55 per cent., and 13.3 per cent. respectively above the maximum allowed.

Sundries.

A cocoa showed a slight excess of crude fibre. A vinegar was deficient in acidity. Two samples of water were found to be unfit for human consumption.

Wines and Spirits.

Only two whiskies were deficient in proof spirit, in both cases to a small extent only.

Return of Samples and Specimens Examined at the Model School Laboratory by Mr. F. Johnstone, B.Sc., A.A.C.I., during the Year ending 31st December, 1936.

	No. of Samples.
Water	30
Soil	67
Veterinary specimens	75
Milk	33
Milk (inspectors' samples)	10
Cream	6
Lime	8
Spraying materials	13
Fertilisers	23
Fodders	14
Miscellaneous	4
Total	283

Return Showing Sources of Above Samples.

	No. of Samples.
Department of Agriculture	231
Hobart Local Authority	16
Farmers	19
Merchants and milk-vendors	17
Total	283

I have, &c.,

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Director of Public Health.

APPENDIX VI.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 16th April, 1937.

The Nurses' Registration Act, 1927.

SIR,
WE have the honour to present the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1936.

Personnel of Board.

Director of Public Health (Dr. B. M. Carruthers),
Chairman.
Surgeon-Superintendent, Hobart Public Hospital.
Medical Superintendent, Launceston Public Hospital.
Dr. T. C. Butler.
Matrons M. McGrath, E. M. Nicholls, and I. E. Macfarlan.

Meetings of Board.

The Board held six general and four special meetings for the transaction of its business.

Training Schools.

Nineteen hospitals are recognised as training schools—15 for general nurses and 4 for midwifery nurses.

Pupil Nurses.

Pupil nurses to the number of 300 (276 general and 24 midwifery) were in training during the year. Applications for training received during that period totalled 176, 148 of which were approved.

Examinations.

The Board conducted four examinations for registration as general and midwifery nurses—two at Hobart and two at Launceston.

Sixty-one persons presented themselves for examination in general nursing. Of these, 49 passed the necessary examination and 12 failed. In the midwifery section, 22 persons presented themselves for examination. These all passed.

Educational examinations for intending trainees were arranged on four occasions. Thirty applications were received for these examinations, and of these candidates 12 passed and 18 failed.

Applications for Registration.

General Nurses—	
Number of applications	95
Number approved	95
Midwifery Nurses—	
Number of applications	37
Number approved	37

Applications for Renewal of Registration.

General nurses	350
Midwifery nurses	272

Inspections.

The Supervisory Nurse attached to the Department of Public Health carried out 341 inspections in connection with the practice of midwifery nurses.

Charge Preferred Against a Registered Midwifery Nurse.

In accordance with its powers under the Act, the Board investigated a charge of malpractice and misconduct of a serious nature preferred against a registered midwifery nurse. As the result of its investigation, the Board cancelled the certificate of registration issued to her, and caused her name to be removed from the register.

Agreement for Reciprocal Registration Between General Nursing Council for England and Wales and Board.

The Board approved of the addition of a clause to this agreement whereby nurses trained in England and Wales in a general hospital approved by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and registered by the Nurses' Registration Board of Tasmania, are accepted for registration (by reciprocity) by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales.

We have, &c.,

B. M. CARRUTHERS, Chairman.

E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX VII.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical and General.

Population:

Estimated on the 31st December, 1936—

Males	118,665
Females	116,394
Total	235,059

Mean population 1936 (for whole year)—

Males	117,037
Females	113,833
Total	230,870

Mean population 1935 (for the whole year)

Increase for the year

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 1274.

Commonwealth Birth-rate for the Year 1936 per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1935.	1936.
New South Wales	25.67	16.89	17.31
Victoria	23.10	15.16	15.63
Queensland	25.59	18.31	19.07
South Australia	23.71	14.14	15.17
West Australia	23.94	18.23	18.84
Tasmania	27.08	19.41	19.84
Northern Territory	19.16	16.47	21.50
Federal Capital Territory	11.37	15.77	16.18
Commonwealth	24.69	16.55	17.13

Death Rates for 1936 Per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with the previous year and a year in the previous decade.)

	1922.	1935.	1936.
New South Wales	8.92	9.28	9.14
Victoria	9.65	10.03	10.16
Queensland	9.16	9.16	8.68
South Australia	9.11	8.83	9.30
West Australia	9.32	9.25	9.40
Tasmania	9.30	10.25	10.34
Northern Territory	16.42	13.72	11.42
Federal Capital Territory	2.13	4.37	4.51
Commonwealth	9.22	9.46	9.43

Deaths in Relation to Disease.

The following return, from data supplied by the Government Statistician, shows the number and causes of deaths during the year 1936, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 230,870), as contrasted with the previous year, 1935 (mean population estimated at 229,596).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1936.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1935.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	1	...	2	·1
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles	7	·3	7	·3
Scarlet Fever	6	·3	1	...
Whooping Cough	11	·5	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	20	·9	24	1·0
Influenza	7	·3	50	2·2
Dysentery .....	...	...	5	·2
Syphilis	10	·4	5	·2
Tubercular Diseases	135	5·8	130	5·7
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	11	·5	17	·7
Cancer, all forms	283	12·3	261	11·4
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning .....	...	...	1	...
Other General Diseases	100	4·3	84	3·7
Total General	591	25·6	587	25·5
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System...	173	7·5	175	7·6
Diseases of Circulatory System	720	31·2	645	28·1
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	259	11·2	279	12·2
Diseases of Digestive Organs	95	4·1	112	4·9
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	113	4·9	131	5·7
Diseases of Puerperal Origin..	35	1·5	21	·9
Diseases of the Skin	13	·6	5	·2
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	37	1·6	32	1·4
Diseases of Early Infancy	127	5·5	126	5·5
Total Local Diseases	1572	68·1	1526	66·5
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	120	5·2	124	5·4
Homicide	6	·3	4	·2
Suicide	22	·9	21	·9
Total External Causes ...	148	6·4	149	6·5
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	65	2·8	89	3·9
Ill-defined Diseases	11	·5	2	·1
Total Ill-defined Diseases	76	3·3	91	4·0
Total Deaths, All Causes	2387	103·4	2353	102·5

RETURN Showing the Number of Deaths from Typhoid during the last Ten Years under Age Groups.

Year.	Under 5.		5-10.		10-15.		15-20.		20-25.		25-30.		30-35.		35-40.		40-45.		45-50.		50-55.		55-60.		60-65.		65 and over.		Total all Ages.		Per-sons
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
1927...
28...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29...
30...
31...
32...
33...
34...
35...
36...
Totals

Typhoid Fever.

Year, 1936.

Number of cases notified	8
Number of deaths, year 1936 (calendar)—	
Males	1
Females .....	....

Diphtheria.

Year, 1936.

Number of cases notified	575
Number of deaths, year 1936 (calendar)—	
Males	15
Females	5

Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of Cases.
1923	604	3	.1	2.79	5.0	0.5
1924	376	3	.1	1.74	8.0	0.8
1925	288	3	.1	1.34	10.4	1.0
1926	188	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5
1927	91	2	.1	.43	22.0	2.2
1928	190	1	.05	.88	5.3	0.5
1929	314	2	.1	1.44	6.4	0.6
1930	485	8	.4	2.20	16.5	1.6
1931	265	...	...	1.18	...	...
1932	417	5	.2	1.84	12.0	1.2
1933	370	4	.2	1.61	10.9	1.1
1934	362	4	.2	1.58	11.0	1.1
1935	302	1	.05	1.32	3.3	0.3
1936	478	6	.3	2.07	12.6	1.3

Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
1923	870	32	1.5	4.02	36.8	3.7
1924	597	20	.9	2.76	33.5	3.4
1925	473	13	.6	2.19	27.5	2.7
1926	347	6	.3	1.62	17.1	1.7
1927	507	10	.5	2.38	19.7	2.0
1928	908	18	.8	4.21	19.8	2.0
1929	488	18	.8	2.24	36.9	3.7
1930	573	20	.9	2.59	34.9	3.5
1931	589	19	.8	2.62	32.3	3.2
1932	455	17	.8	1.96	37.4	3.7
1933	706	16	.7	3.14	22.3	2.2
1934	491	22	.9	2.14	44.8	4.5
1935	537	24	1.0	2.34	44.7	4.5
1936	575	20	.9	2.49	34.8	3.5

1890

1891

1892

1893

1894

1895

1896

1897

1898

1899

1900

1901

1902

1903

1904

1905

1906

1907

1908

1909

1910

1911

1912

1913

1914

1915